



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1995

No. 154

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We hear the discordant voices of our land and of our world and we can become perplexed and we wonder if there is any harmony or unity that binds people together. Yet, O gracious God, we know that You have created all people in Your image and are the ruler over all time and space. As we hear the differing voices and the varying clamor and clatter from so many places, remind us that every person from every land from every tradition can speak Your truth, the truth that can set all people free. Bless us, O gracious God, this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 1, rule I, the Chair will postpone the vote until later in the day.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SKAGGS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

### TRIBUTE TO MARCIA SMITH

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and commendation to an exceptional public servant and a member of the congressional staff. After nearly exactly 10 years on my staff, my scheduler and personal secretary, Marcia Smith, will be leaving today. She has been prototypically an exceptional congressional employee, and I wanted to bring that fact to the attention of the House. Her performance here, her skill, the way she has met people from across the world who have come through my office, has been absolutely an outstanding reflection upon this institution, on this Member, and on my constituents in Nebraska.

I thank her for her tremendous service in what is undoubtedly one of the most hectic jobs for all of us, the scheduler-secretary. Her performance here has been exceptional, and I will miss her greatly in my work and life. We wish her well and great success and joy in her new career and life in Chicago. Good luck to you, Marcia.

### CHANGE BURDEN OF PROOF IN TAX CASES

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. "With liberty and justice for all." All except taxpayers. The Internal Revenue Service and scorekeeper said if Congress changes the burden of proof in a tax case to treat a taxpayer under the Bill of Rights like any other citizen, innocent until proven guilty, it would cost the Government too much. So as a result, it is not going to happen again.

Let me say this to Members of the Congress: If the Congress themselves scored the Constitution, we would repeal for money purposes the Bill of Rights.

Shame, Congress. Hide your face. It is time to change the burden of proof in a tax case. This Congress must address that issue, or the American people should get in our face.

### SAVING MEDICARE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, Republicans in the House this week celebrated the 1-year anniversary of the Contract With America. That contract was and is a promise to the American people to reform the way things are done around here and we delivered. Now we are making a promise to preserve and strengthen Medicare. We intend to deliver again.

The shameless demagoguery that our liberal Democrat colleagues are engaging in will not stop us. The false TV ads put out by special interest groups will not stop us. The deliberate deception of the American people by a liberal minority with no solutions of its own will not stop us. We will deliver.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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